

The Millville Public School Express:

PROVIDING A WORLD CLASS EXPERIENCE FOR ALL STUDENTS **OCTOBER 26, 2016**

Emergency Response: Working Together to Be Prepared

Hello again. Welcome back to another edition of the Millville Public School Express. This month, I would like to share information regarding the Millville Public School District's Emergency Management Plan. Each year, unfortunately, we are forced to respond to events in our community. Many details of our plan will need to be kept confidential to safeguard our students and staff members. We have very clear and well thought out procedures to respond to a variety of emergencies. Our plan is the result of hours of collaboration with law enforcement, school and district personnel, and the NJ Department of Education. While no plan is perfect, we are confident that our plan is comprehensive and will keep our students and staff safe. Our priority is to keep everyone safe!

One emergency response mode we utilize is "shelter in place". If you are a parent you are likely aware we have utilized this action several times already this year. There are several reasons we go into "shelter in place". In general, we use this mode when we learn of potential danger in the surrounding area of a school (or schools). This mode ensures that nobody enters or leaves the building while in this action, essentially "locking down" the perimeter of the location. During a "shelter in place" learning can continue inside the school. This mode allows the students and teachers to maintain business as usual other than entry and dismissal from the building. Another mode we enter into for specific or imminent threats against a school (or schools) is "lock-down". Similar to "shelter in place" entry and exit are not permitted. The major difference between the two modes is a "lock-down" freezes all learning and activity.

Lastly I would like to share our priorities during any emergency. The top priority is your child's safety and the safety

of our staff. To that end, we work with the local police department to safeguard our schools. Our communication between law enforcement and school personnel is critical. Once we have engaged our Emergency Response Plan we are actively working with law enforcement until they give us the "all clear". When the police department issues the "all clear" notification we utilize a variety of communication tools to share the information. We will use the district's Facebook page, the district's website homepage, as well as the automated calling service.

Unfortunately, in many cases, we are limited regarding what we can share as it is part of a police investigation. Many parents have asked to be notified when we enter into our Emergency Response Plan and as a parent I understand why, but as the person ultimately responsible for the district's management during a crisis, notifying parents at the start could likely result in parents and guardians arriving at the school (or schools) which would take emergency responders away from the primary issue. The most important piece of information is that all students and staff are safe.

I want to end by thanking our students, staff and community for being awesome! While moments of crisis can be frightening, our staff and students do a great job working together to be as prepared as possible.

Please enjoy the following stories about the Millville Public School District.

"All aboard the Millville Public School Express" School Express"

— Dr. David Gentile
Superintendent of the Millville Public Schools



Nurtured Hearts Create Firm Foundations: A New Philosophy for the Behavioral Disabilities Classroom

The Firm Foundations classroom, formally known as Lakeside's Self-Contained Behavioral Disabilities (BD) classroom is starting off the year with success! With the support of our Board of Education and Administration, Lakeside's School Psychologist became a Certified Trainer in the Nurtured Heart Approach (NHA) and trained all BD staff. The Nurtured Heart Approach consists of a set of strategies that assists children in further developing their self-regulation and has been found effective with children of all ages. It focuses on transforming the way children perceive themselves, their caregivers and the world around them. Children learn to understand that they will receive endless amounts of praise, energy, recognition and reward through the positive behavior they display and this supports children to build a positive portfolio of themselves, which we call "Inner Wealth™." This approach has helped change our curriculum, classroom behavior plan, program discipline and individual and classroom rewards.

Additionally, we are working with Drexel University for our new digital

data collection system, Lilypad. Drexel University's Lilypad program gave our classroom five iPads to collect and track behavioral data. The Lilypad program allow our staff to input data simultaneously and check the data in "live time."



This data creates their daily points, which directly correlates to our classroom leveling system.

Take a Look Inside

In the Firm Foundations room we make moments into miracles. Our students are recognized for their successes and improvements, with verbal NHA recognitions, Prosocial Points, Brag Tags, Bucket Fillers and rewards.

What's Next?

Our students and staff want to make a Greatness Garden in Lakeside's greenspace near the classroom. Stay tuned for more stories of success!

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Stick Mr. Slater to the Wall

Students who participated in the Mount Pleasant Summer reading program were given permission to stick Mr. Slater, our physical education teacher, to the wall.

Approximately 60 students participated by reading their favorite books or the required summer assignments. They could post on Instagram weekly, a snapshot of them and their family reading. Students posted pictures of them reading by the pool, in the backyard, at the shore, in the car, etc. Students who did not have access to Instagram could draw a picture of their adventures and bring them to class.

The "Stick Mr. Slater" assembly on Friday, September 30th, began by showing a video of all of the Instagram postings set to music. Students received their certificate for participating and a big piece of tape.

The entire school looked on and cheered as the tape was added piece by



piece. Mr. Slater remained up on the wall for a few seconds. Mount Pleasant is hoping to expand the program this summer and encourage more students to participate.

The program was created and developed by Christina Kelley, third grade teacher and Kristina Messina, second grade teacher.

Playing the Right Notes



Congratulations to Kaci Georgis, Alexia Bartleson, Julia Terry, and Richie Rivera for auditioning and making it into the 2016-2017 Rowan Youth Orchestra!

Welcome to World 8th Grade Math

In today's teaching world, we sometimes forget the whole reason why we became teachers. We need to take a step back, breathe, relax, and remember. That's what I did this summer. I was switching from teaching Special Education Algebra and Geometry at Memorial High School to Special Education 8th Grade Math at Lakeside Middle School. I was changing schools, grades, curriculum, and starting my Masters in Mathematical Foundations at Farleigh Dickinson University. What was I thinking?! I decided to add more to my caseload by turning my classroom into an economy based classroom. Have I added more work to my plate? Yes! Is it worth it? Absolutely!

While reading Chicken Soup for the Soul: Children with Special Needs this summer, a story mentioned a classroom economy. I googled classroom economy and brainstormed ideas. I bounced ideas off to my family and friends. Everyone gave me feedback on how to implement it. My husband and I worked on all of the different documents and the ideas the remaining of the summer, so I could make this economy work in my classroom.

If a student chose college/trade school, he/she receives \$50/day. If a student chose career, he/she receives \$40/day. Not only do my students get paid to come to school, they have to pay bills: rent (\$1000/month), student loan (\$200/month for 5 months, if they are attending college/trade school), and utilities (\$150/month). All the students have to balance account and tax logs, daily. The bills are due on certain days, and the students can see it on the calendar displayed in my classroom. There is a designated area for their payment coupons for each of the bills they are responsible for.

I have implemented ways to earn extra income, but also lose money. If a student follows all of my classroom expectations, he/she can earn a green chip that has a number on it. If they can't follow my rules, he/she earns a red chip that has a number on it. At the end of each class, I read from my 143 income and expense scenarios. The number on their chips earned, correlates with a scenario number. For example: an income could say helped a friend out, earn \$10 and an expense could say water heater broke pay \$100. The student fills out the spreadsheet to figure out their deposit and withdrawal for the day. Every day I enter their income/expenses in their account at

Jose Acosta saved his money and paid off his desk!

www.mykidsbank.org.

On Mondays, the students earn 10 percent off of last week's beginning balance, if their account log matches their banking statement that I printed from the bank, they earn the interest. If it doesn't they don't earn the interest.

The students can choose to save their money to buy their "desk" for \$3000 or participate in the auction, if they have more than \$1000, that I host the last day of every month. The first auction was a success. I auctioned some snacks and toys and the students loved trying to get their peers to bid high for items.

The students will have to pay taxes on April 15th, which is the amount of one month's rent. They can earn some tax credits to lower the amount owed, which are some scenarios on the green tokens.

The student who saves the most money in each class at the end of the year will receive a prize. The student who saves the most out of all my classes will receive a prize and a certificate. If each class saves a certain amount, there will be a special class prize at the end of the year.

Our actions impact our lives every day. My students are learning this daily by earning the green and red chips, bidding a lot of money on an auction item, paying bills, not getting paid if you're not in school. Our students need to know the impact of their actions. It's fun for the students, and a fantastic classroom management tool.

Is it a lot of work? Yes! Is it worth it? Definitely. My students are excited to be in my class. They are learning real life skills, along with the 8th grade math curriculum.

I became a teacher to inspire, and every day I see it in my student's eyes that is exactly what I am doing.

Sit back, breathe, relax, and remember!

If you would like to donate any items for our auction, that would greatly be appreciated.

Follow me on my blog <http://realworld8thgrademath.blogspot.com/>!

*Jennifer Rauch
SPED 8th Grade Math Teacher
Lakeside Middle School*



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Firefighter Week

Thank you to the Millville Firefighters who taught us at The Child Family Center how to fight a fire. The children enjoyed a short presentation on what the firefighters look like in their uniforms and also, got to hold the hose and put out a pretend house fire!



The Eyes Have it at Millville Senior High School

Dr. Lynne Porreca, O.D., Optometrist and city commissioner of Millville, was recently a guest speaker for the Health Professions Club at Millville Senior High School. Dr. Porreca lectured students on various topics pertaining to optometry and careers in the health professions. Students were actively engaged in various activities regarding the eyes.



Grandparent's Day

Thank you to all the grandparents who visited The Child Family Center on Grandparent's Day. Fun was had by all as we enjoyed snacks, art projects, and play with our families!



Our Students & Parents Love Club 21! After School & Summer Enrichment

This is our seventh year of providing enrichment activities to 4th and 5th grade students in all of our elementary schools through a New Jersey Department of Education Grant. Over the years we have served about 1,500 students. Club 21 started on September 26th and is open all full days of school through May and four weeks in the summer.

We will continue our varied programming using our awesome staff. Activities are geared toward the student interests at each of our sites. Past partnership activities have included Girl Scouts of Southern NJ Region (see photo), Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office presented about making good choices, Millville Community Center brought the Imagination Playground to each of our sites and Century Bank provided piggy banks for students. After a few months the students took the money to the bank and cashed it in the change machine to see how quickly saving a few cents a day adds up.

Students take four field trips per year. Each site chooses their own field trips based upon student interest and curriculum. Trips spanned a variety of objectives and have included the Franklin Institute, Medieval Times, Millville Public Library, Levoy Theatre, Union Lake Tour, Cape May Zoo, Rowan University Planetarium, Cumberland County SPCA, and YMCA Camp Merrywood.

This year's first trip is on October 28th. Rieck Avenue Club 21 Students are going to the Millville Army Airfield Museum. The students are met by a "Drill Sergeant" who lines them up and tells them about how new recruits to America's Airfield of First Defense were greeted. Children fly a flight simulator, tour aircraft on the ground and experience the basics of aerodynamics with a paper airplane competition.

Children today have challenging lives. There is a lot of stimulation and stress. In Club 21 students are learning how their minds work and how to "quiet" the noise and self-regulate themselves. We are using the Goldie Hawn Foundation MindUp Curriculum. Take time to breathe and think before

you react.

We were able to bring in some new programming. Through Bedtime Math, we received free curriculum and supplies to host three seasons of Crazy 8 Math. The teachers loved the detail of the plans and having all the resources together. The kids loved how much fun math could be.

The Engineering/Robotics teachers also came to each site and helped the children build robots and hold a competition. Most sites made this into a parent invitation event. We use Legos to create bridges and amusement parks to further increase engineering skills.

As part of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture Program, students receive a snack and drink each day during the school year.



Past partnership activities have included Girl Scouts of Southern NJ Region

Transportation is also available. One hundred percent of parents surveyed indicated that the program taught their child decision making skills and how to work as a team. Student interviews conducted in the Spring revealed that students enjoyed the program, learned new skills, and made new friends.

For more information contact Nancy Quay, Project Director (856) 293-2284 or nancy.quay@millvillenj.gov

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COAT OF ARMS!

Students in Mrs. Zatzariny and Mrs. Abdill's 9th grade English classes at Memorial High School created "Coat of Arms" shields representing their families in connection to their reading of Edgar Allan Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado*. The "Coat of Arms" were made out of wood and various supplies reflecting their personalities and families.



Amber Bartleson, Thomas Roman, Savannah Colby



Danielson Montalvo and Jaiden Holmes



Cristal Arroyo, Christian Cortes, and Madison Van Meter

College Admissions/Financial Aid Seminar Well Attended



The Millville High School Guidance Department hosted its annual College Admissions/Financial Aid Seminar. There were over 200 people in attendance who came to learn more about the college admissions process and financial aid. Counselors from both Memorial and MSHS discussed topics including researching colleges, standardized testing, how to apply, and what to do after getting accepted. Also, John Iacovelli, Dean of Enrollment Services at Stockton University, was a guest speaker who reviewed the FAFSA and the new deadlines for Federal Financial Aid. When the program ended Mr. Iacovelli and the counselors stayed to answer any questions that the families had.

What an Honor!

Theodore Sherman, a sophomore at Millville Senior High School, performed with The U.S. Army Field Band's Jazz Ambassadors, Oct. 13 at The Levey Theatre in Millville. Sherman has been playing saxophone for six years. As the premier touring big band for the United States Army, the Jazz Ambassadors travels thousands of miles each year throughout the nation and abroad, keeping the will of the American people behind the members of the armed forces and supporting diplomatic efforts around the world. This 19-member ensemble, formed in 1969, has received great acclaim both at home and abroad performing America's original art form, jazz.



Jonathan Agee photo

Above, Sherman is flanked by Sgt. 1st Class Bradford Danho, left, and Sgt. Maj. Andrew Layton.

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